

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated February 28, 2003. A Petition for Extension of Time (two months) and the fee therefor are enclosed.

As requested, a substitute specification is enclosed and it is respectfully asserted that the substitute specification does not introduce new matter into the application. Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.125, we have also enclosed a version of the substitute specification marked-up to show the changes made.

Substantively, claims 43-55 stand rejected on the grounds of anticipated by U.S. Publication No. US2002/0087179 A1 to Culp, et al. Reconsideration is requested in view of the presentation of a new set of claims and the cancellation of the prior claims, without prejudice.

Although the new set of claims have not yet been examined, the surgical tool system disclosed by Culp, et al. is differentiated from the surgical system which is defined in the independent claims in the application, which are directed to a surgical system that comprises a main control unit and a novel connector expansion unit.

The main and independent new claim-56 is directed to a surgical system which comprises a main unit that generates the driving signals for a variety of handpieces. That main unit comprises a "first handpiece connector to which each of the first receiving connectors (of a plurality of handpieces, i.e., hand tools) can be detachably connected to receive the driving signals generated by the main unit."

However, the use of the main unit of the present invention with a variety of different treating tools, i.e., handpieces, would require constantly connecting and disconnecting the tools as different ones need to be used.

The invention in claim 56, therefore also supplies a connector expansion unit and a connection system that routes the driving signals from the main unit to the expansion unit. The expansion unit permits the simultaneous connection of the plurality of handpieces to the expansion unit, dispensing with the need to constantly connect and disconnect various handpieces.

Respectfully, Culp, et al. neither discloses nor suggests to provide the arrangement or functionality of the present invention, in which a plurality of handpieces can be utilized while using a single main unit to which only one handpiece can normally be connected, as noted above.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the claims of record clearly distinguish over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the newly presented claims and pass this case to issue.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 28, 2003

Max Moskowitz

Name of applicant, assignee or
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Signature

July 28, 2003

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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